

Golf Middle School News and Views

November 2006
Volume 2, Issue 4

Mr. Keith Westman, Principal



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From the Principal's Pen

Greetings!

The month of November has been full of exciting activities at GMS.

We had the honor and pleasure of hosting over 65 grandparents during our annual Grandparents' Day luncheon on Tuesday, November 13th. In addition to enjoying a turkey lunch, lovingly prepared by our dedicated kitchen staff, our guests spent some time visiting classrooms and enjoying musical performances by the Concert and Cadet Bands, Chorus, and general music students.

Our first series of Parent-Teacher Conferences will conclude with Tuesday morning's sessions. Please remember that our teachers can be contacted at any point during the school year to discuss your child's academic progress. In the event that you were unable to attend a conference during our fall sessions, please contact your child's teachers directly so set up a mutually convenient meeting.

On Thursday, December 14th, from 7:00-8:00 P.M., we will be hosting the second parent workshop. The theme of this workshop is Internet Safety. Topics to be discussed include MySpace, AIM, safe Internet surfing, and Internet monitoring softwares currently on the market. I hope that you can attend this free event.

On a personal note, I am truly thankful to you for entrusting the faculty and staff at Golf Middle School with your child's education.

Have a wonderful holiday,

Mr. Keith Westman, *Principal*

5th Grade Team: Mrs. Amy Feinstein, Ms. Brooke Iglow and Mrs. Anne Moss

Fifth grade has been extremely busy this 1st quarter of school. As we begin 2nd quarter, it is good to reflect on all that we have accomplished. In reading we have finished Theme One and completed a unit on Natural Disasters. With all that has happened in our world these past few years, we had a ton to talk about. We have also been reading different "Tall Tales" and done some really fun projects with alliteration and exaggeration. Be sure to ask your kids about them.

In Humanities we have begun our unit on Ancient Civilizations. Mrs. Feinstein's class is concentrating on Ancient Egypt, while Ms. Iglow works on Ancient Rome and Mrs. Moss on Ancient Greece. After we have learned everything there is to know about our specific Ancient Civilization, we will then learn about the other countries. We also enjoyed going to the Field Museum to see some Ancient Egyptian artifacts. Thank you to our chaperones that helped us out that day.

We'd also like to thank our room mothers and Mrs. Goodwin for throwing a wonderful Halloween party for the 5th graders. They had so much fun and you outdid yourselves!

All in all, we are very pleased at how quickly the kids have adjusted to their new environment and how eager they are to learn. We are looking forward to the end of each quarter and being able to reflect on all of their accomplishments.

6th Grade Team: Mr. Brian Carro, Mrs. Hope Nelson, Ms. Peggy Steadman

Medieval Times

Upon the request of King Alfonso, the Lords and Ladies of the 6th grade were invited to a tournament and feast at his Schaumburg castle. The 6th graders cheered on the red and white knight and the blue knight was ultimately killed in battle. In spite of this upset, the Lords and Ladies had a fabulous time.

6th Grade Humanities Class

The sixth grade humanities classes completed a unit of study on the middle Ages. Students researched this historical period using classroom materials and school technology. Well-known fictional characters such as Sir Lancelot, Guinevere, Sir Galahad, Robin Hood, Grendel, and others were studied. The students enjoyed creating projects such as castles, coats of arms, manors, headdresses, and ancient alphabets.

In celebration of the Middle Ages study, the sixth grade class took a trip to Medieval Times on November 3, 2006.

Don't forget to visit our school website to see the pictures of our trip as well as other classroom projects.

Mrs. Nelson

7th Grade Team: Ms. Liana Alonistiotis, Mrs. Cindy Conejo, Mr. Gregg Gilman

The 7th grade English classes have begun working on the art of persuasion. They are writing paragraphs persuading people to buy common objects by using them in new and unusual ways. If this leads to extra persuading skills invading your home--Sorry!

The 7th grade math classes are working hard on coordinate planes and plotting ordered pairs. In physical education classes, students are enjoying floor hockey and spending some time in the classroom exploring the health curriculum.

7th grade Spanish students have been learning about how to describe people with adjectives and will soon begin to learn clothes and colors. They will all be participating in self-designed fashion shows, so don't be alarmed when they start raiding the closets at home!

8th Grade Team: Mr. Ted Carris, Mrs. Lisa Featherstone, Mrs. Kristine Joyner, Mrs. Danielle Maldonado

In the spirit of the holidays, the 8th-grade team is thankful for your children and their enthusiasm to:

- * perform the Charleston and the Lindy Hop
- * understand the causes and effects of the Great Depression
- * write business and personal letters
- * read about someone's life through a biography study
- * continue learning fluency in Spanish
- * trace genetic heritage through meiosis
- * strengthen their math skills

We are also thankful to have jobs that we love, to work with outstanding colleagues, to teach remarkable students, and to work in a community that supports education.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Band: Mrs. Traci Bowering

Congratulations to both the Cadet Band and the Concert Band on their outstanding performance at Grandparent's Day on November 14. All that rehearsal time is really paying off! As a reminder, students need to have black pants, black socks, black shoes and the red music department polo shirt as their uniform for concerts.

All Golf band members should be practicing regularly at home, at least five days per week. Please encourage your child to play for you at home weekly. The more individual practicing happens, the more the bands will improve. A band is only as strong as its weakest player!

Information on the optional solo contests was distributed to all of the band students. If your child intends to participate in one or both of the solo contests, the form must be returned to me by Friday, December 1, 2006. Late forms cannot be accepted. The form is available on my webpage on www.golf67.net.

If you missed our November performance, please join the Golf Middle School Bands and Chorus and the Hynes Beginning Band on Wednesday, December 6, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. for the annual Winter Concert. The students are working hard on some great holiday tunes. We look forward to seeing you there!

CHORUS: Mrs. Holly Hesse

This quarter, the fifth and sixth grade general music classes have been focusing on singing and performing rhythms. One of the instruments they play their rhythms with are called Boomwhackers. They make really cool sounds and can be played on almost any surface by simply "whacking" them! Thirty two sixth grade students performed a Boomwhacker piece for our visitors on Grandparent's Day and they did an outstanding job. Way to go!

The Golf Middle School Chorus is hard at work learning songs for the upcoming Winter Concert which will be held on Wednesday, December 6 at 7:00 PM in the Golf Middle School Gym. Please plan on attending for a great evening of music. See you there!

Nurse's Station: Mrs. Joyce Vazzano

All Illinois children in kindergarten, second and sixth grades are required to have an oral health examination. Examinations must be performed by a licensed dentist and he/she shall sign the proof of examination form. Each child shall present proof of examination by a dentist prior to May 15th of the school year. If you have a sixth grader and have not completed this requirement, please do so by the May 15th deadline to be in compliant with the state regulations. Thank you.

Technology: Ms. Joann Stavropoulos

7th & 8th grade students have just begun working on the synergistic modules this quarter.

Girls' Junior Varsity Basketball: Mrs. Kristine Joyner

Congratulations to the JV Girls Basketball Team:

Stacy Joseph, Jennie Randstrom, Shana Ariaz, Susie Shaba, Brittany Ebeling, Amanda Cortes, Frankie Brown, Berina Gradjan, Jaimy John, Caitlyn Wheeler, Gianna Civito, Rachel Matthies, and Kristin Reichert. Our wonderful managers are Brett Nagel, Kaitie Karlin, Nicole Pena, and Kasey Karlin. Come cheer on these terrific young athletes!

Counselor's Corner - Kira Beckering

*By Beth M. Levy, MA, CAGS, NCSP
Bedford (NY) Central School District*

Adults often underestimate the stress and anguish teasing and name-calling cause children. Teasing and name-calling are common social interactions, and can be used in a playful manner with friends and classmates and between parents and children. However, it is the hurtful way that teasing and name-calling often are used that may discourage school attendance for many children and erode their feelings of self-confidence. Children who name-call and tease typically view their comments as mild, but their victims' perceptions differ.

Intervention Strategies

Many children and adolescents lack effective coping strategies and social skills to deal with teasing and name-calling. When they appear upset and hurt by teasing, that becomes a signal to others to continue the teasing because they have caused a reaction. Adult efforts to intervene, such as telling children to ignore the teasing, do not usually work because victims do not know how to effectively hide their hurt emotions. Children also feel that adults do not realize how much pain they are experiencing from teasing and name-calling. It is crucial that parents and teachers intervene to help children cope and interrupt the negative consequences of name-calling and teasing.

STRATEGIES FOR PARENTS

Teasing and name-calling were difficult to deal with when we were younger, but it can be harsher today. Children need their parents to validate their feelings and help them feel supported. Role-playing various strategies and solutions can help your child feel more confident and less like a victim when facing difficult teasing situations.

- Listen and validate your children's feelings when they say someone is calling them names and teasing them.
- Try not to evaluate how well your children handled teasing; instead, praise your children for trying to handle this difficult situation.
- Strategies to help children cope with stress will be effective strategies to deal with teasing and name-calling.
- Help your children develop a repertoire of confident comebacks, using previous name calling situations as examples for practice.
- Help your children practice hiding their emotions when they are called names or teased.

Role playing (setting up a pretend situation) can provide safe practice opportunities

- Have your children practice looking right at the teaser and maintaining eye contact. This shows confidence and strength.

STRATEGIES FOR TEACHERS

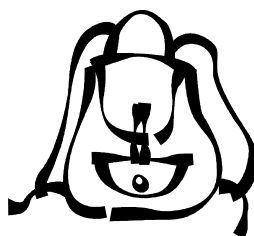
Teachers have more impact on the life of victims of name-calling and teasing than they may realize. If teachers allow teasing to continue by not making attempts to stop this behavior, they can send a message that teasing is acceptable and the victims feel unsupported. Teachers need to use their power to help all children feel accepted and not allow anyone to be excluded.

- Encourage acts of kindness and compliments in the classroom. Set the expectation for kindness and do not accept teasing behavior.
- Work with the school psychologist or social worker to help support victims and change the interactions with the social group. Find ways to highlight the strengths or special talents of children who tend to be victims.
- Work closely with parents to help promote more positive social interactions and change inappropriate behaviors.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

November 14:	Picture Retake Day
November 21:	Parent/Teacher Conferences- No School
November 22-25:	Thanksgiving Recess
November 27:	School Resumes
November 28:	NTDSE Board Meeting at Molloy- 7:30 P.M.
December 5:	Board of Education Meeting- 6:30 P.M.
December 6:	District Band and Chorus Concert
December 14:	Internet Safety Workshop- 7:00 P.M.

For a list of all upcoming athletic games, please refer to our online athletics calendar which is available through www.golf67.net.



Did you know?

Students at Golf Middle School are permitted to use backpacks with wheels. Although previous school supply lists have indicated that these were not permissible, we do allow students to use these bags.



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The News and Views will be released on the 3rd Thursday of each month both online and in print.